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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2957
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
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CTFPROVIDE COMFORT//INCIRLIK//CC//ELT//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECCAT//
HQTUSLOG ANKARA TU//CC//
CHJUSMMAT ANKARA TU//TCH//TDA//
7022 ABS PIRINCLIK TU//CC//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 07433

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL PTER TU IZ

SUBJECT: LEFTIST MAGAZINE CLAIMS PKK "WILL HIT THE U.S. ARMY"

1. (C) WE SET OUT BELOW IN SOME DETAIL AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE LEFTIST WEEKLY "2000'E DOGRU" (TOWARDS THE YEAR 2000) MAY 30. WE DO SO NOT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARILY IS ACCURATE (IT CONTAINS A NUMEBER OF OBVIOUS ERRORS, INCLUDING THE CLAIM THAT THE PKK ACTIVELY OPPOSED SADDAM), BUT BECAUSE IT IS REFLECTIVE OF ELITE, URBAN, LEFTIST THOUGHT IN TURKEY. THE GIST OF THE ARTICLE IS THAT, ASSUMING IRAQI KURDISH LEADERS REACH A POLITICAL ACCOMODATION WITH BAGHDAD, THEN U.S. FORCES WILL BECOME LEGITIMATE TARGETS IF THEY DO NOT WITHDRAW. THE ARTICLE WOULD APPEAR TO CONTAIN NO CURRENT THREAT.

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT.

THE PKK IS THOUGHT TO HAVE PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE KURDISH REBELLION IN NORTHERN IRAQ. WHEN THE "CHAHS" REVOLTED AGAINST THE IRAQI REGIME, MANY PKK FIGHTERS WERE IN NORTHERN IRAQ. SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF U.S. FORCES IN THE AREA, PKK FORCES HAVE VANISHED. "2000'E DOGRU" VISITED A PKK CAMP IN NOTHERN IRAQ TO TALK WITH LEADERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE UPRISING.

WE FIRST ASKED "WHY HAVE (PKK FIGHTERS) NOT BEEN SEEN?" THE REPLY WAS "IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE CLASH WITH THE U.S. WE ARE GAZING AT EACH OTHER DOWN THE BARREL OF A GUN, AND WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS."

WE REACHED THE CAMPSITE, CALLED 'BEHIND SEVEN MOUNTAINS,' AFTER A LONG DRIVE AND A TWO-AND-A-HALF HOUR WALK. THE PKK MILITANTS ASKED US NOT TO MENTION THEIR NAMES UNNECESSARILY, CITING THE EXAMPLE OF LEADER ABDULLAH OZCALAN, WHO CRITICIZED EXAGGERATED USE OF HIS NAME IN SONGS AT THE 4TH PKK CONVENTION...

PKK COMMANDER BOTAN DISCUSSED THE GROUP'S STAND IN THE REBELLION. "AFTER 22 DAYS OF FIGHTING WE BEGAN RETREATING FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS. SOME PESHMERGES WHO SAW THE GROWING PANIC ESCAPED AHEAD OF THE CIVILIANS. WE TRIED TO STOP THEM. OUR WOMEN SHAMED SOME INTO STAYING, SAYING "WE WOMEN ARE GOING TO FIGHT. AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO RUN?" WE FOUGHT SADDAM'S TROOPS UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT AND THEN ESCAPED.

PKK LEADERS DENIED REPORTS THE PKK RECENTLY OPENED FIRE AT A U.S. HELICOPTER AND LOST NINE OF ITS MILITANTS WHEN THE CRAFT RETURNED FIRE. THEY ADDED, HOWEVER, "IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE CLASH WITH THE AMERICANS," AND SAID THEY HAD HEARD FROM THE KDP (KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY) THAT AMERICANS FEAR POSSIBLE PKK ATTACKS.

WE ASKED IF THE PKK COULD WIN A FIGHT WITH THE U.S. THE LEADERS SAID "THE ISSUE IS NOT TO WIN OR LOSE. WE EXIST TO STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM. IF THE U.S. OCCUPATION CONTINUES, WE WILL STRUGGLE AGAINST IT. IT WOULD BE OUR GREATEST ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE. KURDISTAN HAS THE POLITICAL POTENTIAL AND THE ORGANIZED MILITARY POWER TO OVERWHELM IMPERIALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE INVITE ALL PARTIES WHO FAVOR REVOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO FIGHT. WE SUPPORT ANY INITIATIVE IN THIS RESPECT."

THE PKK CLAIMS THE U.S. HAS SETTLED IN BOTH SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN KURDISTAN. IT ADVOCATES TAKING UP THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERILISM ON BOTH FRONTS BECAUSE U.S. OCCUPATION IS

THE COMMON PROBLEM OF KURDS, TURKS, ARABS, AND IRANIANS. A MIDDLE-EAST REVOLUTION COULD SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. "WE WOULD LIKE TO CREATE A KURDISTAN THAT WOULD BE THE CENTER OF AN ANTI-IMPERIALIST WAR."

THE U.S. TRIES TO MAKE PEOPLE (IN NORTHERN IRAQ) BELIEVE ITS MOTIVE IN COMING TO THE REGION IS THEIR RESCUE - AND THE KDP AND YNK SUPPORT THIS. IN SOUTHERN KURDISTAN THE U.S. IS TRYING TO WIN POPULAR SUPPORT BY MEETING PEOPLE'S NEEDS, INCLUDING THEIR NEED FOR FOOD. THE US, HOWEVER, WILL DESTROY PEOPLE IN THIS REGION JUST AS IT ONCE DID IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE U.S. ALREADY HAS THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN KURDISTAN IN ITS POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND CULTURAL GRIP. IT LEASHES THEM LIKE DOGS, USING THE RUSE OF 'ASSISTANCE' TO BIND THEM.

WE DO NOT WANT TO BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF SADDAM, THE TURKISH STATE, ANY OTHER REGIONAL POWER, OR THE U.S. WHAT THE U.S. DOES AT PRESENT IS OCCUPY SOUTHERN KURDISTAN. WE WOULD LIKE LEGAL GROUNDS TO HIT THE U.S. IF THE SO-CALLED REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTHERN KURDISTAN REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE IRAQI ADMINISTRATION, THE U.S. WILL HAVE NO REASON TO REMAIN IN KURDISTAN, AND WE WILL STRIKE.

WE CONSIDER THE KDP THE ARMED GANG OF THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES. A NEW MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY HAS FORMED IN SOUTHERN KURDISTAN. IT IS ATTRACTING MANY SUPPORTERS AND WE, THE PKK, WILL THROW OUR FULL STRENGTH BEHIND IT.

END TEXT.

ABRAMOWITZ